

## **Executive Summary**

The Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan documents the assessment of the fire situation in the unit, includes stakeholder contributions and priorities, and identifies strategic targets for pre-fire solutions as defined by the people who live and work with the local fire problem.

Responsibility for Pre Fire Engineering and Fire Protection Planning falls under the direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Pre Fire Engineering includes GIS mapping of assets at risk, wildland fuel belts, and the maintenance of various other GIS data layers to assess the existing levels of wildland protection services, identifies high-risk and high-value areas that are potential locations for costly and damaging wildfires, rank these areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribe what can be done to reduce future costs and losses.

The assessment system has four components:

- Level of Service (LOS)
- Assets at Risk (AAR)
- Hazardous Fuels
- Historic Fire Weather

This plan will utilize the five strategic objectives and Fire Plan Framework identified in the California Fire Plan and incorporates them into the planning and implementation process. The five objectives and framework components of the Santa Clara Fire Management Plan are as follows:

- **Wildfire Protection Zones**

To create wildfire protection zones that reduces the risks to citizens and firefighters.

- **Initial Attack Success**

Assess wildfire initial attack successes on lands of similar type. This is measured in terms of a percentage of fires that are successfully controlled before unacceptable costs and losses occur. The analyses can be used to determine the department and unit's level of service.

- **Assets Protected**

The plan has utilized a methodology for defining assets protected and their degree of risk from wildfire. The assets addressed in the plan are citizen and firefighter safety, watersheds and water, timber, wildlife and habitat (including rare and endangered species), rural communities, unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic), recreation, range, structures, and air quality. Stakeholders for each of the assets at risk are identified. The assessment will enable the Unit and other fire service managers to set priorities for fire management project work.

- **Fire Management Prescriptions**

The fire management aspect focuses on alternatives to protect assets at risk. Projects include a combination of fuels modification, ignition management, fire-safe engineering activities such as regulation and zoning, educational programs, public information and road accessibility, department infrastructure including fire stations and water systems, alarms, and forest health. Pre Fire management prescriptions designed to protect these assets will also identify those who benefit and who should share in the project costs.

- **Fiscal Framework**

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and CDF are developing a fiscal framework for assessing and monitoring annual and long term changes in California's wildland fire protection systems.

- **Applications of the Fire Plan Framework**

- Identify for state, federal, local officials and the public those areas of concentrated assets and high risk.
- Allow the Santa Clara Unit to create a more efficient fire protection system, focused on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas.
- Give citizens an opportunity to identify public and private assets to design and carry out projects to protect those assets.
- Identify, before fires start, where the most cost effective pre-fire and fire management investments can be implemented.
- Encourage an intergovernmental approach to reducing costs plus losses.
- Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future costs plus losses from wildfire.
- Through the land use and safety element of the Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin and Stanislaus County's general plan, incorporate elements of the California Fire Plan so that the county plan's support the state plan.



### **Stakeholders**

Stakeholders are defined as any person, agency or organization with a particular interest, a stake, in fire safety and protection of assets from wildfires. The Santa Clara Unit has made a considerable attempt